

STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

State WASHINGTON

The Standards Established and the Methods Used to Assure High Quality Care

- I. The State plan for medical assistance provides that the range of medical services included in the plan is available as determined necessary by qualified physicians and other practitioners. All of the medical services included in the plan are provided without delay attributable to administrative processes required under the plan. Medical services of a high level of quality are made available and this level of quality is affected by administrative procedures or requirements. The decision to provide medical care is always made by a qualified physician or other practitioner. To the greatest extent possible, the physicians and other practitioners take into account the social situation of the individual. Such supervision of professional services rendered as may be required is provided by professional persons in the field.
- II. The State program for medical assistance includes reasonable and definite standards for determining that the medical services furnished were necessary and were supplied in an amount and variety consistent with accepted norms of professional practice. The administration of these standards is handled on a continuing basis by the local medical consultants and the local nursing care consultants; these standards are also subject to continuing review at the State office level.
- III. To the greatest extent possible the administrative mechanisms required in this plan to insure prompt receipt of medical assistance are kept simple and clearly defined and in the best interests of the recipient. To this end realistic schedules of compensation for all medical services included in the State plan are maintained and updated within the limits of federal regulations and available appropriations. Routine prior authorizations of medical care and services are kept at a minimum. In order that applicants, recipients, the general public, and the various providers of medical services involved be kept informed as fully as possible regarding the content of the medical care available and the circumstances under which it is provided, an ongoing program of public information, including the use of pamphlets and brochures, is carried out.